(b) The Madras Non-Gazetted Excise Officers' Association made a representation.

(c) The answer to the first part of the clause is in the affirmative. The exemptions granted ceased to be valid when the Statutory Rules referred to in the answer to clause (a) came into force, unless the clerks had been appointed Sub-Inspectors before the issue of these rules.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know whether it has not been working as a hardship in respect of clerks who have joined the department before or in 1931 in the prospect of being appointed as Sub-Inspectors?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Statutory rules have to be adhered to. There is no provision for any exemption at all."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know what consideration the Government propose to give to the representations made by the Madras Non-Gazetted Excise Officers' Association?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Notice."

Proposal to re-open the toddy and arrack shops in Tiruchengodu and Rasipur taluks.

* 131 Q.—K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to re-open the toddy and arrack shops that were closed in Tiruchengodu and Rasipur taluks some time ago;

(b) if so, which are the shops to be re-opened;

(c) what the reasons are for re-opening these shops;

(d) whether the Commissioner of Excise has been to these taluks and enquired into the matter;

(e) what the result is of the enquiry;

(f) if the answer to clause (d) be in the affirmative, why no intimation was sent to the District Representatives in the Legislative Council to be present at the enquiry; and

(g) whether a copy of the Commissioner's order on the enquiry will be placed on the table with the copies of the connected papers which led the Commissioner to pass such an order?

A.—(a) The Commissioner of Excise has made such a proposal.

(b) The Commissioner has proposed the re-opening of all the arrack and toddy shops in those parts of the taluks of Tiruchengodu and Namakkal and in that part of the sub-taluk of Rasipur which were constituted as a 'dry' area in the Salem district.

(c) The shops have not yet been re-opened. The proposal is under the consideration of Government.

(d) Yes.

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(e) The Commissioner has formed the conclusion that the experiment has proved a failure.

(f) The Commissioner was in the area from June 29th till July 7th and wide publicity was given to his visit and the purpose of it.

(g) The Commissioner has not passed any orders. He has made a report to Government who are considering it.

[For further list of starred questions and answers, please see page 347 infra.]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Forest

Utilization of fodder supply in Government forests.

132 Q.—Mr. K. SINGAM AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the facilities given to the ryots of this Presidency to utilize the fodder supply growing in Government forests;

(b) whether there are any parts of the Government forests, which though abounding in grass, are closed to cattle grazing for ever;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that forest grazing area of this Presidency is inadequate to supply the wants of the cattle;

(d) whether Government intend in any way to meet the inadequacy of fodder supply; and

(e) whether the grass depots of Government are sold off annually or how they are disposed of?

A.—(a) Grazing permits are issued at low rates. Grass cutting is also allowed—generally free in the case of head-loads though in some cases cart-loads as well are allowed to be removed free of charge. In 1929, the Forest Department was directed to encourage the cutting of grass in reserved forests and as an experiment to allow in certain places cattle to be penned and grass cut and taken to them.

(b) Grazing is permanently prohibited in a few forests.

(c) It has been brought to the notice of Government that there is never sufficient grazing for the whole of the inferior cattle which will continue to take out permits while the existing low scale of grazing fee is in force.

(d) There is nothing that the Forest Department can do beyond except to conserve the existing stocks by regulation. The production of better grasses would involve irrigation and an expense which would be irrecoverable in the shape of grazing fees.

(e) There are no Government grass depots.